Strong defense drops Altavista

A stalwart defensive performance and two big offensive plays gave the Appomattox varsity football Raiders their third win of the season and preserved their undefeated record against Nelson County Friday night.

"It was without a doubt the best defensive game we've played this season," said coach Stuart Justus after the game. "I don't know that we can play any better defensively."

Offensively, however, the Raiders left much to be desired, according to the coach. "It was probably the worst game we've played this year on offense," Justus said. "We only ran 39 plays the whole game on offense, and we usually average 30-33 offensive plays per half. We made the big play against Nelson County, but if it hadn't been for the defense, we would have gotten beat. Our defense won the game for us."

The leading runner for the Raiders against Nelson County was Dennis Fleshman, who got 30 yards on five carries. "Fleshman went out of the game halfway through the first quarter with a knee injury," Justus notes.

Allen Edmonds, who went in after Fleshman was hurt, scored both the Raider touchdowns, one on a 20-yard scamper around left end in the second quarter, the other on a 40-yard pass from quarterback Kevin Ferguson in the third quarter. Kicker Philip Agee, who scored on both PAT attempts, added three in the second quarter on a 27-yard field goal.

Justus praised the entire defensive unit. "I was very impressed with the efforts of ends Ernest Daye and Jeff Miller, cornerbacks Mark Kelso and Tommy Smith, linebackers William Scott, Kenny Wayne Burks, and Tim Bennett, and defensive linemen Robert Pamlette, Ralph Robinson, Tommy Webb, Norm Turner and Ricky Carter," the coach said.

Offensively, the Raiders felt the effects of injured players. Offensive tackle Roy Trent is still hurting from his sprained ankle sustained in the Rustburg game. Fleshman will likely see limited action, if any, following Friday night's injury, a bruised knee. William Scott still suffers from an elbow injury, though he played against Nelson County. And Rodney Bryant and Robert Carter are still hurting from injuries received in games.

"Altavista is going to be tough," Justus said in reference to this coming Friday's game, "especially with the injuries we have."

Justus says Altavista's Micha Moon is "probably the best runner we'll see all season." The coach points out that Moon carried the ball 40 times for 198 yards in a losing effort against Brookville.

Though Altavista has won but one game this season, they have played tough opponents and made respectable showings. "They've been beaten by Brookville and Jefferson Forest," Justus notes. "And last week they lost to Liberty, when they should by all rights have won that game. You can bet we're not taking this game (against Altavista) lightly," Justus concluded.

The Raiders will square off against Altavista and Micha Moon this Friday night at 8 p.m. at home in Bragg Stadium. The local team's record now stands at 3-0-1.

Jayvees win second straight game

The Raider junior varsity football team won its second straight game last Thursday, knocking off Nelson County, 14-0.

Coach Howard Clabough noted that the Raider offense worked effectively for the second straight week, as running backs Gary Ferguson, Chris Tolley, Ricky Turner, Jay Wingfield and Jeff Fanny totaled 200 yards on the ground and Paul Johnson added 53 more yards behind an offensive line that is "blocking better each week."

Gary Ferguson scored both Raider touchdowns from three and five yards out, running out of the fullback slot, according to Clabough. Chris Tolley added a two-point conversion from his halfback position for the total scoring in the game.

The Raider defense recorded its first shut-out of the season by turning away their opponents, including one Nelson County threat at the five-yard line. Again leading the Raider defenders were 258-pound Gene Hamlett, who recorded two fumble recoveries, Tyrone Abbitt, Buddy Hamlett, Antione Morgan, Ricky Miller, Todd Scruggs, and Gary Shorter.

The Junior Varsity squad travels to Altavista today (Thursday) for a game with the colonels.

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Sports

Ferguson excels in 10-mile race

Richard Ferguson, Appomatox native and son of Murrell and Easley Ferguson of 2nd Street, ran a blistering 50 minutes 18 seconds Saturday in Lynchburg's 7th annual Virginia 10-Miler.

This race is noted as one of the ten best road races in the U.S. and attracts many world class runners each year.

Richard's excellent time made him 1st place winner in his age division and placed him 20th overall in a field of approximately 2700 runners.

Other local runners also had good times, many having "personal best" times: Bob Pankey -- 64:29 (474th overall); Dick Smith -65:12 (542nd overall); Chris Miller -- 68:48 (827nd overall); Marshall Cunningham -- 75:01; Robert Garrett -- 77:20; Bob Smoak -- 79:11; Sam Dickerson -- 81:42; Mike Hendricks -- 81:47; Dewey Woods -- 84:52; Jeff Fanney -- 87:06.

Former Appomattox residents who ran and their respective times are: Casey Archer -- 73:24; Ronnie Archer -- 76:05; Bill Bryant -- 93:10.

The runners after the race thanked their friends and neighbors who came to watch and cheer them on during the race. Especially helpful was the encouragement at the beginning of the last hill.

These runners and many more will be participating in the Joe Sweeney 10K Classic (6.2 miles) on October 11 at 2:30. Come on out to the race route and cheer for them, offer water, or if you live on the race route, bring out your water hose and drench them as they pass. They would appreciate the support, and you will enjoy the race.

DICKIE SMITH AND GARET BOSIGER warm up for the Joe Sweeney 10K Classic to be held October 11 in Appomattox, Va. Dickie competed in last year's race and turned in an excellent time. He is expected to do real well this year. Garet is a relative new comer to the sport of running, but has been turning in some good times at races this year. Dickie and Garet train together, normally running seven miles a day. For more information write Joe Sweeney 10K Classic, Rt. 1, Box 701-A, Appomattox, Va. or call 352-5521.

Raiderettes do it again

The Appomattox Raiderette volleyball team lifted its record to 4-0 in the Seminole District, and 5-1 overall with victories over William Campbell and Nelson County in volleyball action last week.

The Raiderettes had an easy time against William Campbell last Tuesday, as the local girls put away their opponents in two quick games, 15-2 and 15-2, to win the match.

Ruby Smith with ten points and Rhonda Jaggers with seven led servers, according to coach Lucy Harris. Susan Handy took honors scoring on spikes, with seven of eight attempts successful. Ruby Smith scored on two of four attempted spikes, Robin Martin scored on one of two attempted spikes, and Rhonda Jaggers scored on the one spike she attempted.

Angie Murray and Karen Johnson took care of setting chores for the Raiderettes, according to Harris.

Nelson County gave the Raiderettes their first real scare of the season in district play Thursday, leading the local team 14-7 and a point away from victory in the first game of the match, before the Raiderettes staged a near-miracle come-from-behind rally to win 16-14. The Raiderettes contipued their powerful comeback in the second game of the best-of-three match, polishing off Nelson County 15-3 to win the contest.

"It was a very thrilling match," said Harris of the spine-tingling first game. "The girls got themselves straightened out in the second game, however, took over full control of the match and won rather easily."

Robin Martin and Rhonda Jaggers walked away with top serving honors against Nelson County, scoring nine and six points, respectively.

Commenting on the Raiderettes' undefeated district record thus far in the season, Harris said "teamwork is the keynote to our success so far this year."

She notes that Liberty and Jefferson Forest also have tough teams, and said there is a strong possibility that the Raiderettes could go into the last match of their regular season against an undefeated Jefferson Forest team.

The Raiderettes were scheduled to play Liberty Tuesday after the Times-Virginian deadline. At that time Liberty was also undefeated in district play.

Jefferson Forest is the last opponent of the regular season for the Raiderettes. Their season ends Oct. 16. The tournament begins Oct. 18.

Today (Thursday) the Raiderettes are scheduled to take on Altavista at home. Match time is 6 p.m. Next week the girls take on Holy Cross and Brookville on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively. Both of next week's matches are away.

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